

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A liquid crystal optical element comprising a pair of substrates with transparent electrodes and a liquid crystal layer interposed between the substrates and having a memory property, wherein a first resin layer is provided on at least one of the transparent electrodes, a rubbed alignment surface of said first resin layer is arranged to be in contact with the liquid crystal layer.
2. The liquid crystal optical element according to Claim 1, wherein the first resin layer is provided only on the substrate on a side opposite to an observing side.
3. The liquid crystal optical element according to Claim 1, wherein the other electrode has a second resin layer provided thereon, the second resin layer is provided in contact with the liquid crystal layer, and the second resin layer has a surface hardness of B or less in a pencil hardness test.
4. The liquid crystal optical element according to Claim 2, wherein the other electrode has a second resin layer provided thereon, the second resin layer is provided in contact with the liquid crystal layer, and the second resin layer has a surface hardness of B or less in a pencil hardness test.
5. A liquid crystal optical element comprising a pair of substrates with transparent electrodes and a liquid crystal layer interposed between the substrates and having a memory property, wherein at least one of the

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transparent electrodes has a metal-oxide layer provided thereon, and the metal-oxide layer is provided in contact with the liquid crystal layer.

6. The liquid crystal optical element according to Claim 5, wherein the paired transparent electrodes have a drive voltage of 20V or less applied thereacross.

7. The liquid crystal optical element according to Claim 5, wherein the other electrode has a second resin layer provided thereon, the second resin layer is provided in contact with the liquid crystal layer, and the second resin layer has a surface hardness of B or less in terms of a pencil hardness test.

8. The liquid crystal optical element according to Claim 6, wherein the other electrode has a second resin layer provided thereon, the second resin layer is provided in contact with the liquid crystal layer, and the second resin layer has a surface hardness of B or less in a pencil hardness test.